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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/609,123	06/27/2003	Tushar Patel	101896-0178	6697
21125	7590	02/12/2007	EXAMINER	
NUTTER MCCLENNEN & FISH LLP WORLD TRADE CENTER WEST 155 SEAPORT BOULEVARD BOSTON, MA 02210-2604			COMSTOCK, DAVID C	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3733				
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	02/12/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/609,123	PATEL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	David Comstock	3733	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 November 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4,6-21 and 23-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4,6-21 and 23-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 June 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 20 November 2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 18-21, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oxland et al. (5,676,666; cited by applicant).

Oxland et al. disclose an elongate member 62 comprising planar retracting surfaces 72, 74, and removable guide members 80, 82 having lumens therewithin (see Fig. 1). The planar surfaces have a width that is greater than that of each guide. The lumens extend at an angle to one another. The device includes extension cleats 76 on a distal portion of the device, and the distal portion is disposed at an angle to the

proximal portion. The hinge of the device constitutes a cross member. The device attaches to a plate 10 having superior 36 and inferior 38 portions with holes 34 (see Figs. 2-8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 and 6-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oxland et al. (5,676,666; cited by applicant) in view of Kurland (4,686,972).

Oxland discloses the claimed invention except for the concave end portions. Kurland also discloses a drilling guide 10 and provides concave ends 6 to facilitate proper seating on the drilling target (see Figs. 1 and 2 and col. 1, lines 48-57, and abstract). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the device of Oxland et al. with a concave end portion, in view of Kurland, in order to facilitate proper seating on a drilling target and improve the procedure.

Claims 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oxland et al. (5,676,666; cited by applicant).

Oxland discloses the claimed invention except for explicitly disclosing the angular range of about 110 to about 160, as between the proximal and distal portions of the

device. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the device within a range of 110 and 160 degrees, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233. It also would have been obvious to make portions of the plate slidably movable, since it has been held that the provision of adjustability involves only routine skill in the art, and it would be desirable to properly position and fix the plate. *In re Stevens*, 101 USPQ 284 (CCPA 1954).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered and are persuasive with regard to Florin (3,626,471). Accordingly the rejection of claims 18-20 over Florin have been withdrawn. However the remaining arguments are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's arguments pertaining to the Oxland et al. reference, it is noted that the elongate member comprises the guide member and therefore at least by incorporation has the distal, tissue-retracting portion that extends a distance beyond a distal-most end of the guide member. In addition, the structure of Oxland et al. is at least capable of satisfying the claimed limitations. It is noted that Kurland teaches providing an end portion that is congruent in shape to a target. Oxland et al. would not be inoperative for a curved plate, and in fact, would be better suited thereto. It is also noted that the test for obviousness is not whether the features of one reference may be bodily incorporated into the other to produce the claimed subject matter but simply what

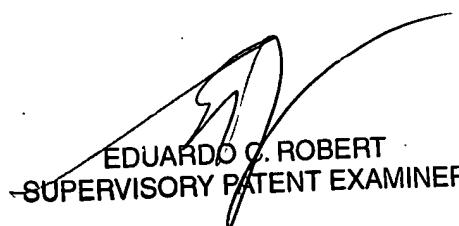
the combination of references makes obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art, i.e. making the end match the shape of a desired target.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Comstock whose telephone number is (571) 272-4710. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached at (571) 272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


D. Comstock


EDUARDO C. ROBERT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER